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Feb 11, 2018

RE: HB 2545 OPPONENT WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY
House Federal and State Affairs

Dear Chair Barker and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to ask you to **OPPOSE HB 2545**, a bill that would bring greyhound racing back to Kansas.

My name is Melissa Driscoll and I'm a resident of McPherson County. Although a racetrack isn't currently considered for my area, I am opposed to resurrecting this industry for many reasons.

At one time, greyhound racing was highly popular in the state of Kansas, as well as other states in the U.S. Today, only 6 states continue to allow legal greyhound racing operations. This major decline in popularity was brought about through community enlightenment after reported abuses and atrocities suffered by these racing dogs came to light. We, your constituents, have shown you multiple times with our wallets over the past two decades that we refuse to be a part of this inhumane industry!

Just recently, Florida has been pushing to legalize greyhound racing – and yet here we are still looking backwards. Kansas needs to truly examine Florida's operations and comprehend that greyhound racing is no longer profitable. Regulation costs have eaten away any possible revenue stream Florida hoped to gain, and racetrack owners are being forced to race dogs just to keep their gambling rooms open. Mandatory greyhound races enforced by the state has only further perpetuated a cycle of abuse, neglect, abandonment, and death upon these beautiful greyhounds. Absolutely nothing positive comes from greyhound racing today, not even the financial statements.

I ask you to *please* **OPPOSE HB 2545**. Kansans do not want to trade our values for non-existent returns. We must all find another way to increase our state's revenue. **Kansans deserve better.**

Respectfully,

/s/ Melissa Driscoll
McPherson, KS
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